

REMARKS

This Amendment is being filed in response to the Final Office Action mailed July 23, 2008, which has been reviewed and carefully considered. Entry of the present amendment and allowance of the present application in view of the amendments made above and the remarks to follow are respectfully requested.

In the Final Office Action, the Examiner indicated that claims 5-6 and 12-13 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicants gratefully acknowledge the indication that claims 5-6 and 12-13 contain patentable subject matter. By means of the present amendment, independent claims 1 and 10 have been amended to include the features of allowable claims 5 and 12 which have been canceled without prejudice. In addition, claim 11 has been rewritten in independent form including the features of allowable claim 12.

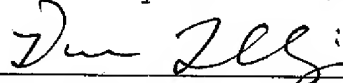
Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that independent claims 1 and 10-11 are allowable, and allowance thereof is respectfully requested. In addition, it is respectfully submitted

that claims 2-3, 6-9 and 13 should also be allowed at least based on their dependence from independent claims 1 and 10.

In addition, Applicants deny any statement, position or averment of the Examiner that is not specifically addressed by the foregoing argument and response. Any rejections and/or points of argument not addressed would appear to be moot in view of the presented remarks. However, the Applicants reserve the right to submit further arguments in support of the above stated position, should that become necessary. No arguments are waived and none of the Examiner's statements are conceded.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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